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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Fuerstenberg

[illegible]

- On 11 November 1953, the barracks installation in Drogen near Fuerstenberg was occupied to capacity. All quartering buildings were fully lighted after dark-fall. Between 29 October and 11 November, numerous trucks were daily seen en route to and from the town and numerous troops daily went to, and came from, the Carlshorst training area. On 31 October, [redacted] AT gun-fire was heard from the Carlshorst training area. Between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., numerous troops carrying food containers were seen en route to and from the training area. At about 3:30 p.m., about 50 troops armed with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns entered the installation, coming from the direction of the training area. On 5 November, about 100 troops armed with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns and followed by truck [redacted] left the installation toward the training area. The truck was occupied by about 30 troops equipped with targets, spades, shovels and hoes. On 7 November, about 1,000 troops, preceded by a military band and carrying numerous wreaths, marched from the installation to the Soviet monument on Bahnhofstrasse. [redacted]
[redacted]
- On 29 October, a shipment of about 60 boxcars, occupied to capacity by troops was seen at the Fuerstenberg railroad station, with the engine headed toward Neustrelitz. Between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 23 October, about 3,000 unarmed troops with baggage were detrained at the Himmelpfort railroad station and left for the barracks installation on Castavan Lake. On 27 October, about 240 troops and several officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and carrying baggage were detrained and shipped to the barracks installation on Castavan Lake by trucks of the [redacted]. Another 240 troops of this shipment proceeded toward Neustrelitz. On 29 October, about 1,500 troops from the barracks installation on Castavan Lake were entrained at the Fuerstenberg railroad station. On 30 October, another 1,500 unarmed troops with baggage from the barracks installation on Castavan Lake were entrained at the Fuerstenberg railroad station. The shipments left toward Neustrelitz. Between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on 6 November, about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were detrained at the Himmelpfort railroad station and subsequently left for the barracks installation on Castavan Lake. The troops carried field pack.

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3. [redacted] the area of the barracks installation on Castaven Lake was being enlarged. Numerous soldiers were erecting a new board fence, extending as far as Himmelforter and Dabelower Strasse. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- On 7 November, about 500 troops carrying numerous wreaths were seen leaving the installation toward the town for a ceremony. 3
4. On 4 November, heavy vehicular traffic was observed at the restricted area south of Roebliin Lake. Most of the sedans were occupied by senior officers and the trucks carried ration supplies or were occupied by troops. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- On 7 November, about 1,000 officers, PM and uniformed women left the installation for the monument. On 10 November, firing of rifles was heard from the installation. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
5. On 23 October, the former Ravensbrueck concentration camp was only lightly occupied; and numerous soldiers engaged in firing practice at the firing range and in simulated attacks against dummy buildings. On 24 October, about 150 troops received theoretical instruction at the firing range. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] convicts were quartered in the installation area until their sentence had been pronounced and, subsequently, were forwarded to penitentiaries. 4
6. On 6 November, the barracks installation on Castaven Lake was occupied. The noise of hammers and saws was heard from the quartering area. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a board fence, 2 meters high, north of Jagen (forest section) Nos 91 and 92. The area south of the installation, as far as the Lychen-Fuerstenberg road, was being cleared. 3
7. [redacted] only a few Germans were employed in the hospital between the Hohenlychen railroad station and Zens See (lake). The laundry located there was supervised by a senior lieutenant and work was performed by German employees. 5
8. At noon on 28 October, a shipment of 49 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 1 coach occupied by officers passed through the Lychen railroad station, coming from the direction of Templin and proceeding toward Fuerstenberg. The troops appeared to be trained personnel, spoke some German and appeared to be rather familiar with German conditions. At 2:30 p.m. on 1 November, a shipment of 52 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 coaches occupied by officers passed through the Hohenlychen railroad station, coming from the direction of Fuerstenberg and proceeding toward Templin. A railroadman stated that the shipment was bound for Frankfurt/Oder. On 4 November, the train was followed by a shipment of 44 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 1 coach with officers. 2
1. [redacted] Comment. The 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div can be vaguely confirmed in the barracks installation in Droegen by the infantry weapons observed with the entering and leaving troops. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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- 25X1 2. Comment. Only some of the troop trains mentioned in paragraph 2 and 8, which were dispatched in connection with the personnel exchange, can be identified by available reports on transportation.

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The observations in paragraph 7 do not check with information in paragraph 2, nor do they check with previous reports on transportation. In contrast to the fall of 1952, the barracks installation on Castaven Lake is being used as assembly and distribution point for discharges and recruits of the Second Gds Mecz Army this year.

- 25X1 3. Comment. Further information is needed to determine whether additional buildings will be erected in the enlarged area of the barracks installation on Castaven Lake, which is occupied by the 33d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 9th Gds Tank Div. The clearing of the woods south of the installation, as far as the Lychen-Fuerstenberg road, had already been indicated.

- 25X1 4. Comment. Convicts in the Sachserhausen concentration camp are reported for the first time. Major elements of the 9th Sig Regt of the Second Gds Mecz Army have, so far, been carried there.

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- 25X1 5. Comment. Reports on transportation tended to indicate that at least elements of the hospital, which had been stationed in Hohenlychen, transferred to Neuruppin on 2 trains on 18 September 1953. This assumption could, however, not be confirmed so far.

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